

MILITARY VOTING

The Office of the Secretary of State is committed to educating people about elections and voting, and encouraging eligible persons to register to vote and cast an informed ballot. With your service to our nation at home and abroad, you have defended the very freedoms that make up our great democracy. In this brochure, you will find information about how to participate in our democracy by exercising your right to vote.

How do I request an absentee ballot?

The preferred way is to send in a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to your county elections department at least thirty-five days before the election to provide ample time for a ballot to be mailed. The FPCA also serves as a voter registration form if you send in the hard copy.

If you are already a registered voter, you can also request a ballot by contacting your county elections department by phone, email, or fax.

Where can I find the FPCA?

The form may be downloaded or printed from this website: www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.pdf.

Can my spouse or dependent use the FPCA form?

Spouses or eligible voting age dependents still residing in Washington State should follow the state voter registration process and use a voter registration form available at www.vote.wa.gov. Registration rules apply to those still living in the state. If residency is retained in Washington, but spouses, and eligible voting age dependents of military personnel, are out of the state, or country, they may use the FPCA.

Where can I find contact information for my county elections department?

A map of all the counties in Washington State is available at: www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx. If you click on a county, the contact information will appear. A link to an alphabetical list of all Washington counties, including contact information, is also available on that page.

What is the deadline to send in a ballot request?

Election Day is the last day to request a ballot. However, it is best to have your request in at least thirty-five days before the election to ensure enough time to return your ballot. If you make a last minute request, provide information so that the ballot may be sent electronically.

How do I know if I'm registered to vote?

There are three easy ways to check if you are registered:

1. Use MyVote at www.vote.wa.gov/lookup.aspx ;
2. Contact your county elections department and ask; or
3. Contact the Secretary of State's Office and we can check the statewide Voter Registration Database for you.

What if I'm not a registered voter?

Send in your FPCA. We will register you from the form and send you a ballot.

What is the voter registration deadline?

For military and overseas citizens, the deadline is Election Day. However, you may still receive a mail-in ballot even if you are not registered because your signature on the oath attests to your eligibility and constitutes registration.



How do I know where to send my FPCA?

Send your FPCA directly to your county elections department. If you are unsure what county you reside in, you may send the FPCA to the Secretary of State's Office.

What if I don't get my ballot in time?

If you do not think your ballot will arrive in time for you to vote, use a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (see below). You may also contact your county elections department and request a ballot be faxed or emailed to you.

What is a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, and who can use them?

A Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a blank write-in ballot available to overseas and absent military citizens who believe they will not receive their absentee ballots in time to vote. Washington residents who are citizens overseas may use an FWAB for any election in which they are eligible to vote.

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Where can I get a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot?

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots are available at consulates, embassies, and from your Voting Assistance Officers. You can also visit www.fvap.gov/pubs/ofwab.pdf to download the ballot, envelope, and instructions.

Can I get a ballot by fax or email?

Yes! You can either contact your county elections department directly to request a faxed or emailed ballot, or you can indicate this preference on your FPCA in Box 4c. (Be sure to write your email address or fax number on the form.)

Can I return my voted ballot by fax or email?

You must return the hard copy of your voted ballot to your county elections department in order for your ballot to be counted. It must be signed and dated on or before Election Day and received before the election is certified, which occurs 15 days after a primary or special election, and 21 days after a general election.

I will be on vacation overseas during the election, but do not actually reside overseas. How can I vote?

If you are not registered, you will need to submit your voter registration application no later than 30 days before the election. Visit www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx for more information on registering to vote.

In addition to being eligible for an absentee ballot, you may qualify for a special absentee ballot as early as 90 days before

the election. To request a special absentee ballot, you must complete an application stating that you will be unable to vote and return a regular absentee ballot by normal mail delivery. Ballots may also be faxed or emailed to you. For more information, contact your county elections department. If you do not receive your absentee ballot while away, you may use a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns, contact your local elections department or the Office of the Secretary of State.

TOLL FREE

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(800) 422-8683

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(360) 664-4619

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elections@secstate.wa.gov

WEBSITE

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Washington

Secretary of State
SAM REED